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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [CMGT](#) [TW](#) [OECD](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN
THE OECD

REF: A. SECSTATE 20058

[1](#)B. PARIS 515

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) Econoff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Deputy Director for Multilateral Economic Relations Juan Luis Munoz de Laborde. Econoff explained that while the US strongly supports enhanced OECD engagement with China, the US does not/not support China's proposal for an MOU to essentially restrict Taiwan's participation as an observer in the OECD. Munoz de Laborde expressed appreciation for the clarity on the US position. He noted that various directorates within the MFA were discussing this issue and had not yet reached a conclusion. He explained that internal conversations on this revolved around how and whether it would be possible to maintain China's engagement with the OECD while at the same time not restricting Taiwan's participation. As an example, he noted that it would be impossible to have both China and Taiwan participate in the same OECD committees.

[1](#)2. (C) On Munoz de Laborde's recommendation, Econoff spoke several days later with Pedro Arestegui, desk officer within MFA's Sub Directorate for Continental Asia. Econoff requested clarity on the position that Spain espoused during the OECD External Relations Committee joint session (ref B). Arestegui commented that given the complexity of this issue and the various directorates involved, his Sub Directorate would be able speak with more detail the following week. As such, Post will continue conversations on this issue.

AGUIRRE